



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 1

April 28, 2011

Mr. Kevin Brandt, Superintendent
C&O Canal National Historical Park
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Dear Mr. Brandt, *Kevin*

I write today in unequivocal support of the C&O Canal National Historical Park's request for Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) funding to make much-needed repairs to the breach near Old Anglers Inn in Potomac. As you know, in September 2008 heavy rains from Tropical Storm Hanna caused a 125-foot breach in the canal's towpath that has only worsened since that time. If the canal, towpath, and wall are not repaired, further devastation to the canal is imminent.

I am pleased that you and your colleagues at the National Park Service have identified a strategy to put the canal on the path to repair, that leverages \$3.1M in NPS funding contingent upon the \$1.1M TEP grant. I understand that the State Highway Administration, which awards the TEP grants, has agreed to consider this request outside of their usual timeframe given the narrow window presented by NPS's funding constraints. Given this unique opportunity to repair the breach, I am most grateful for that consideration. I understand from our Montgomery County Department of Transportation that the breach repair is our County's only project seeking a TEP grant.

Again, let me reiterate my support for this essential repair to the canal. With over 700,000 visitors per year, the portion of the canal surrounding the breach is one of its busiest points. It is my hope that once funding is secured, repairs will begin expeditiously to return the canal to its status as one of our Park System's national treasures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Berliner".

Roger Berliner
Councilmember, District 1

CC: Gregory Slater, Director, Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering, Maryland State
Highway Administration
John Noel, Chief, Division of Partnerships, C&O Canal National Historical Park
Matt Logan, President, C&O Canal Trust